

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /132 W
-----105776 050954Z/10

P 050827Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5562
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS KS
SUBJ: ROK 12-MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS

SUMMARY: ROKG HAS DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO ADOPT 12-MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS, THOUGH DECISION WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL FALL. MOFA SAYS PRESIDENT PAK HAS NOT YET DECIDED DETAILS OF BOUNDARIES AND REGULATIONS OF NAVIGATION. HOWEVER, PRESS REPORTS DESCRIBE ISSUES PRESIDENT IS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING, AND ALSO SEEM TO INDICATE ROKG INTENDS TO PROCEED PRUDENTLY. END SUMMARY.

1. ALL SEOUL PRESS AUGUST 3 AND 4 FRONTPAGED REPORTS
ROKG DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE AUGUST 3 TO ADOPT 12-MILE
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TERRITORIAL SEA LIMIT. SEA LAW COMMITTEE, COMPOSED OF ELEVEN MINISTERS AND CHAIRED BY PRIMIN CH'OE KYU-HA WHICH REPORTEDLY MADE DECISION CITED SIMILAR ACTIONS OF OTHER NATIONS AND RECENT LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE AS INDICATING 12-MILE WATERS IS BECOMING INTERNATIONAL CUSTOM. ACCORDING TO PRESS, PRESIDENT PAK CHONG-HUI WILL MAKE DETAILED PROCLAMATION IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. REPORTING BY ALL PAPERS EXCEPT ENGLISH LANGUAGE
KOREA HERALD WENT WELL BEYOND ANNOUNCED RESULTS OF
MINISTERIAL MEETING, SUPPLYING MYRIAD DETAILS SOURCED
TO "GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS" OF ANTICIPATED ROKG ACTIONS.
ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, 12-MILE WATERS PROCLAMATION
WILL NOT MENTION EITHER TOKTO (TAKESHIMA) OR THE
NORTHWEST ISLANDS, TRADITIONAL SOURCES OF FRICTION
WITH JAPAN AND NORTH KOREA RESPECTIVELY. PRESS ALSO
REPORTED ROKG WILL CONSULT WITH GOJ CONCERNING IMPLI-
CATIONS OF 12-MILE WATERS FOR ROK-JAPAN FISHING AGREEMENT.

3. PRESS FURTHER REPORTED CHEJU STRAIT WILL BE INCLUDED
IN KOREA'S TERRITORIAL SEA, WHILE KOREA STRAIT NORTH OF
TSHSHIMA ISLAND WILL BE AN INTERNATIONAL STRAIT. TERRI-
TORY SEA ON WESTERN AND SOUTHERN SIDES OF PENINSULA,
WHERE ISLANDS COMPLICATE SITUATION, WILL BE BOUNDED BY
STRAIGHT LINES (NOT FURTHER SPECIFIED); EAST SIDE
BOUNDARY WILL PARALLEL CURVE OF COASTLINE.

4. MOFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUREAU CHIEF CHONG
U-YONG, WHO HEADS 12-MILE WATERS WORKING GROUP, TOLD
POLCOUNS AUGUST 3 THAT ROKG WILL PREPARE DRAFT LEGIS-
LATION TO ESTABLISH 12-MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS FOR
PRESENTATION TO AUTUMN SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.
CHONG ALSO STATED ROKG WILL NOT PROCLAIM 200 MILE
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FISHING ZONE AT THIS TIME.

5. MOFA TREATIES DIVISION OFFICIAL O YUN-KYONG TOLD
EMBOFF AUGUST 4 THAT PRESIDENT PAK IS PRESENTLY DECIDING
SPECIFICS OF ROKG PROCLAMATION AND THAT THEREFORE DETAILED
ACCOUNTS IN KOREAN PRESS ARE PREMATURE. O PROMISED
TREATIES BUREAU WILL DISCUSS BLUE HOUSE DECISIONS WITH
US AS SOON AS THEY ARE MADE. ROKG HAS NOT YET CONTACTED
EMBASSY OR UNC TO DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS OF 12-MILE WATERS
PROCLAMATION.

6. IN LIGHT OF PRESENT BLUE HOUSE INVOLVEMENT IN DECISIONS,
LOWER-LEVEL ROKG OFFICIALS' RELUCTANCE TO COMMENT ON
DETAILED PRESS REPORTS IS NOT SURPRISING. WE ESTIMATE,
HOWEVER, THAT PRESS HAS FAIRLY ACCURATELY DESCRIBED ISSUES
MOFA WORKING LEVEL REFERRED TO BLUE HOUSE FOR PRESIDENTIAL
DECISION.

7. PRESENT INDICATIONS THAT ROKG PROCLAMATION WILL
TACITLY MAINTAIN NORTHWEST ISLANDS STATUS QUO ARE
ENCOURAGING. IN OUR DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT
WITH ROKG OFFICIALS, WE PLAN TO DRAW ON ESTABLISHED

POLICY, POINTING OUT THAT TERRITORIAL SEA DECLARATION
CANNOT AFFECT THE STATUS OF THE ISLANDS UNDER THE
ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. DECISION NOT TO GO AHEAD WITH
200 MILE FISHING ZONE ACCORDS WITH PREVIOUS INDICATIONS
THAT ROKG FULLY APPRECIATES PROBLEMS THIS COULD CAUSE
WITH JAPAN AND OTHERS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL WATERS, TWELVE MILE LIMIT
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 1696820
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Subject: ROK 12-MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS SUMMARY: ROKG HAS DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO ADOPT 12-MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS, THOUGH DECISION WILL NOT BE IM
TAGS: PLOS, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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